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PROGRAM Today Show

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SUBJECT Adm. Stansfield Turner/Korean Plane

BRYANT GUMBEL: And as we speak of the incident in the air yesterday, the one question the world most wants to -- the Soviets to answer is, why? In lieu of that answer we're dealing this morning only in educated guesses.

One man whose guess is more educated than most is Admiral Stansfield Turner, he is a military analyst, he's a former CIA director, and he's in our Washington studios this morning.

Good morning, Admiral.

ADMIRAL STANSFIELD TURNER: Good morning, Bryant.

GUMBEL: Admiral, what's a decent answer to the question of why they did this, was this simply a matter of sensitivity to intrusion of air space?

ADMIRAL TURNER: Well, the Soviets are paranoid about intrusions into their country. They've been invaded a lot. They've shown this kind of sensitivity previously in air and sea incidents.

In addition, though, you've got to recognize that the Soviets place the interest of the state above those of the individual. That's part of communism. And they don't put the same high regard on the individual and his life as we do. They have a different set of values. They're a quite different country with a different outlook